NEW YORK HERALD, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1861.

## NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDÓN BENNETT.

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR. OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

THE DAILY HERALD, two conteper copu. \$7 per annua THE WEERLY HERALD, every battering, at six conte cope, or \$5 per annua, the European Edition corey Wedness at six buils percopy. \$4 per annua to any part of Great Brite or \$6 12 to any part of the Continual, both to include postage; California Edition on the lst, 11th and 21st of each month, at confe per copy, or \$2 75 per annua. nts per copy, or \$2.75 per annum. THE FAMILY HENALD, on Wednesday, at four cents per THE FAMILY REGARD,

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allfornia and European Editions. JOB PRINTING executed with neatness, cheapness and de-

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving place.—Afternoon NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.-Afternoon and Even

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.-LARRES OF KILLARNEY-WALLACK'S THEATRE, No. SM Broadway. -UP AT THE LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, Broadway .- LITTLE TON-

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—Aftern on and evenue.—Puthar.—Youth That Neigh Saw a Woman.—Day After the Wanding-Valentine and Orson—Brigand-El Hyber.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery -- Morning, afternoon and

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway. - Day and Syaning. - Ondina - Hipporotamus, Whale, and Other Cu-

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall. 472 Broad HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS, Stuyvesant Institute, No. 659 troadway.—Afternoon and evening.—Emitorian Sones,

NIBLO'S SALOON, Broadway. -Afternoon and evening. MELODEON CONCERT HALL. No. 539 Broadway. -

CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 585 Broadway. -- SON DANCES, BUBLESQUES, &c. -- MONS. DECEMBER, GAIETIES CONCERT ROOM, 616 Broadway.—Drawing Room ENTRETALMENTS. BALLETS. PANTOMINES. FARCES, &C.

AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 444 Broadway. -Songa, BAL-METROPOLITAN CONCERT HALL, 600 Broadway .-

ORYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, No. 45 Bowery, ... BURLESQUES. SONGS. DANCES, &C. ... NIGGER UP THE CHIRACE PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 563 Broadway.— Open daily from 10 A. M. till 9 P. M.

NATIONAL MUSIC HALL, Chatham street,-BURLES-NOVELTY MUSIC HALL, 616 Broadway.-BURLESQUES

New York, Wednesday, December 25, 1861.

THE SITUATION.

The negotiations between Lord Lyons and Mr. Seward on the Mason and Slidell question are progressing amicably. The most friendly spirit was manifested in their interviews yesterday. Lord Lyons has received no instructions later than those brought by Capt. Seymour. The whole affair, with all its complications, will have to be argued slewly and carefully, but the position of the Cabinet is

Arms and ammunition continue to arrive here from Europe. The Teutonia, which reached this port yesterday from Hamburg, brought over 75,000 stand of arms for the government, principally rifles, the largest portion of which came from Austria. The Hansa, of the Bremen line, brings about the same number, shipped in a great measure from England and France. Besides these arms, the Beamer Damasous is now discharging a large quantity of lead from Liverpool, amounting to about 140,000 pounds, and about 5,000 stand of arms. Within the past four or five months not less than 250,000 stand of arms have come to us from for the prosecution of the war, of which our army stood so much in need heretofore.

The coming operation of the new tariff created quite a stir among the importers of tea, coffee and sugar yesterday. There was quite a rush at the Custom House to enter and pay duties upon these articles, before the law comes into force.

The Sea Island cotton from Port Royal continue to arrive. The brig Ellen P. Stewart brought 290 bales of it into Philadelphia yesterday—the property of the government. It is a fine article and in good condition

The skirmish at Newport News on the 22d was a brisk affair, considering that the Twentieth New York regiment, engaged on our side, had only two companies in the field, and were suddenly surrounded at Newmarket Bridge by a force of 700 rebel cavalry and infantry, but succeeded in cutting their way through them without losing a man. Six of the Twentieth, however, were slightly wounded. Ten of the enemy are known to have been killed, and a number wounded. Seven dead bodies were found yesterday morning; one was that of an officer, and was taken to Newport News. He wore buttons lettered "A. M. M."-perhaps the Alabama Minute Men. It is reported that a whole company of negroes was engaged, and two of our men are known to have been shot by them. General Mansfield and Acting Brigadier General Weber highly complimented the troops engaged for their coolness and bravery.

Our despatches from General Banks' army at Williamsport, give some more interesting details of the late unaccomplished advance of the rebels towards the river at that point, and the subsequent movements of the Union troops.

From Missouri we learn that the command sent to Lexington by General Pope burned two ferry boats and a foundry at that place, and took two captains, one lieutenant, four men and several horses. A thousand of the rebel prisoners captured by General Pope near Clinton on Wednesday last arrived in St. Louis yesterday.

Despatches from Chicage give us some extracts from the Southern papers. The Memphis Appeal says that the city of Richmond has fallen into the most deplorable state of violence and demoraliza tion, shootings and stabbings being of daily occurrence. The condition of the city is said to be as had as ever either Baltimore or Naples was. The Arrical further states the course of the abolitionists in Congress is giving great satisfaction in the South. They consider that the legislation introduced by these gentlemen will win more victories

for the rebel cause than bayonets or bullets. The Indians near Fort Smith are said to be deserting the rebels in large bodies, and coming over to the Union army. An immense force of

the rebel General Cooper's small command, and a battle was daily expected.

The America reached this port yesterday from Halifax, with the European mails of the 7th of December. Our files contain very important details of the news to the time of her sailing from Liverpool, from which it will be seen that the English statesmen hailed the message of Jeff. Davis to the rebel Congress as a powerful aid for the furtherance of their designs in the United States and Mexico. General Scott's letter on the national crisis produced a very profound impression, both in London and Paris, in favor of the Union cause The embarkation of the British troops for Canada elicited none of that popular enthusiasm with which the English are wont to encourage their soldiers when marching to war.

The meeting of Irish Nationalists in Dublin, for the support of the Union cause, was a great success. The eloquent speeches of The O'Donoghue, M. P., and other leaders of the people, which are published in the HERALD to-day, prove that Ireland fully understands and indignantly repudiates the idea of being made a party to England's perfidy towards the democracy of America in this its hour of danger. There is no doubt but the voice of the Dublin meeting will place every Irish heart right on the subject of the danger which must result from the interference of Great Britain in our national affairs.

There was but a slim attendance of members at the opening of the Senate yesterday. A number of petitions were presented praying for the emancipation of the slaves of rebels without compensation, and of those of loyal masters with compens tion. Reports of great extravagance at the navy yards having reached the ears of Mr. Grimes, he introduced a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on Naval Affairs to inquire into the manner in which war vessels have been fitted out. A resolution calling upon the Secretary of the Navy for a list of the names of volunteer officers in the service was adopted. Mr Howe, of Wisconsin, gave notice of a bill to amend the Fugitive Slave law. After an executive ses sion the Senate adjourned till Thursday.

The House of Representatives was not in sess yesterday, having adjourned over till Thursday.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS. The trial of Charles M. Jefferds for the murder of John W. Mathews, which has been tried before Recorder Hoffman in the General Sessions, terminated last evening in the conviction of the accused of murder in the first degree. When the foreman pronounced the verdict Jefferds said, "Gentlemen, you have convicted an innocent man." He was

emanded for sentence.

The Avenir of Antwerp of the 6th instant says, speaking of the recent conflagration in that city:—The disaster will be complete. The fire has spread to the cellars of the Entrepot St. Felix. Dense masses of black smoke have been issuing from the cellars, and occasionally bright tongue, of flame. The vaults have fallen in. A great por. tion of the remaining walls have fallen in

The resolution recently passed by the Legislature of Kentucky, requesting President Lincoln to dismiss Simon Cameron from his Cabinet, it is thought was only intended to quiet the fears of the Union men of that State, who have become alarmed at some of the propositions of the abolitionists.

From a recent return sent in to the Adjutar General of the State of Ohio, it appears that, in addition to the large force already in the field. Ohio could, should the service require, put twenty three regiments of infantry, four regiments of caservice before New Year's day of 1862. Their twenty-two regiments of three months' men have all reorganized except one, several of them being already in active service. Good for Ohio.

A militia general order has been published in Quebec, Canada, requiring seventy-five men in each battalion to be in readiness for active service on one day's notice.

Washington to supply the expeditions, there are yet over two hundred and fifty thousand men on he Potomac. The government hountles to the Postern Sahar

men will be paid on the 1st of January. Some three or four hundred thousand dollars will be distributed. Gloucester alone claims one hundre and twenty-five thousand.

John M. Brewer, one of the Fort Warren prison ers from Baltimore, has taken the oath and beer The Hudson River Railroad trains were consider

ably impeded on Monday night by immense sno Colonel Mulligan has declined an invitation ecture in Boston. He says he is anxious to re

The Board of Aldermen met again last evening and transacted some routine business of no publi

mportance. vessels in this port, all of which—with many other foreign and the American vessels generallydisplayed their national ensigns at half-mast during the day yesterday, in consequence of the death of his Royal Highness Prince Albert.

At a meeting of the New York Board of Fire Insurance, held on Monday last, a report of the Soard of Underwriters, made at their meeting on the 12th instant, was submitted, which set forth that the substance known as petroleum, rock oil. or earth oil, in its crude state (as it is generally received), is largely charged with volatile matter of a highly inflammable nature, and therefore, when the gas generated therefrom is mingled with air, t becomes dangerous in closed buildings, from the fact of its becoming easily ignited. In a fire of any considerable magnitude this explosive gas woul be generated in large quantities, and the destrucion of preperty in a compact portion of th oity would be very great. The com-mittee also find that benzine, benzole and naptha are exceedingly explosive and dangerous, and, when kept in quantities of three barrels or less, in any building, should be placed in the list of "special hazards," and charged as such and when kept in larger, quantities should be subject to the same restriction and rates as crude petroleum, rock oil and earth oil. The committee also recommended that manufactured coal oil refined petroleum oil, kerosene and carbon oil, and all oils manufactured from coal, rock or earth oil and petroleum, when kept in less quantitie than ten barrels, be classed as "extra hazardons." and when kept in larger quantities be classed as 'specially hazardous," and charged as such After a full discussion the suggestions contained in the report were adopted, and it was further resolved that the building containing the articles above named, and all other merchandise therein, be

charged at the rates aforesaid. Judge Shipman has delivered two interesting opinions in the United States District Court one awarding \$17,000 salvage to Tillman, the colored man who, after killing three white men at sea, brought the schooner Waring to this port to her owners; the other deciding that shipowners are iable for cargo destroyed by rata.

The market for beef cattle was active yester day, and, with a small supply, prices advanced 1/c. a 1/c. per pound—varying from 6c. a 9c. a 91/c., and 91/c. a 11c. for fancy cattle. Cows were quiet them are now concentrated within a mile or two of at \$25 a \$50. Veals were scarce and firm at

4c, a 6c, a 61/c. Sheep and lambs were steady from the poorer to good grades at \$2 50. a \$6. Fancy sheep sold from \$7 to \$15 and \$20 a \$25 per head. Swine were scarce and active at 31/4c. s 4%c. The receipts were 2,762 beeves, 72 cows, 176 yeals, 8,003 sheep and lambs, and 17,501 swine.
The advent of the Christmas holidays tended to slacken usiness on 'Change yesterday. The sales of cott braced about 400 bales, on the basis of 37c. a 38c. for ddling uplands, while good to strict middling of all middling uplands, while good to strict middling or sakinds was scarce and nominal at 40c. The flour market was heavy and dull, and, with moderate sales, closed at 5c. per barrel lower for most grades. Wheat was extremely inactive, while prices were unchanged. Ora was heavy and lower, with sales of Westernimized for shipment, afloat and in store, at 63c. Pork was steady, with moderate sales at \$12 25 s \$12 75 for old and new mess, \$13 a \$14 for prime mess, and at \$8 50 a \$9 for prime. The government contract for 6,000 bbls. pork was awarded at \$12 25 a \$12 76 for mess, and the government contract for 8,500 bbls. beef was taken at \$13 a \$14 for extra mess, in iron-bound barrels. Sugars were firm, with sales of 400 bhds., at rates gives in another column. Coffee was firm, and the sales yesterday and the day before comprised 14,000 bags Rie at 17%. a 18%c., and 500 bags Laguayra were sold at 22%c. a 23c. Freights in a general way were firm, while eng

gress Beginning to Work.
The Senate and House of Represe at Washington passed, the other day, bill imposing a war tax or tariff twenty cents per pound on all descriptions of Da; five cents per pound upon all kinds of coffee, and from two and a half to eight cents per pound upon sugars, syrups and molasses. Mr. Morrill estimates the annual revenue from these increased duties at from seven to eight millions of dollars; and he urged the immediate nassage of the bill: first to secure the sugar crop now coming into the country, and the tea and coffee expected soon to arrive; secondly, because these articles have already risen among our dealers in anticipation of this bill, so that the consumers pay now just as much as if the bill were already a law of the land.

The seven or eight millions thus secured will be so much towards sustaining the credit of the Treasury; but when its loans and promises to pay on demand all together exceed four bundred millions of dollars a year, we shall need something more to keep the head of Mr. Chase above water than these increased taxes on tea coffee and sugar. Very true, from the Income Tax bill passed at the last session of Congress twelve or fifteen millions are expected, leaving out the seceded States; but from our vastly diminished luxurious importations from Europe and the most profitable to the government, we shall need some other direct taxes to keep the credit of the Treasury in a healthy condition Distilleries, breweries, carriages and other luxuries and superfluities can hardly expect to es cape when such prime necessaries as tea, coffee and sugar are taxed from ten to fifty per cent and the sooner the two houses of Congress realize the fact the better it will be for the Treasury and our taxpaying people. We must keep the

Senator Fessenden may be right when he says that this war will come to an end disas trously to the country, and that very soon, if we do not begin to economize our expenses He is unquestionably right when he says we should begin to economize at the first point that presents itself for economy. We think, too, we can suggest the article for the initial experiment of retrenchment. It is horseflesh. We understand that the War Office is saddled with the expenses of sixty thousand horses for cavalry purposes, or twenty, if not thirty, thousand more than are wanted, and that the mortality and damage in the horse department of the army are equal to a dead loss of two hundred thousand dollars a week. At great expense our army horses are badly cared for, and are killed off or rendered useless by the hundred from reckless and cruel treatment. Let Congress, or the War Department, inquire into this subject; it presents a wide field for retrench-

On the other hand, we want a larger scope of expenditure in the navy. The House of Representatives so understands it; and hence the commendable bill it has passed for twenty iron-clad gunboats. We call upon the Senate to pass this bill without delay, so that our shipbuilders may proceed at once to work. The specifica tions for these boats are prepared, and within three months we can have all these vessels at sea, if the Senate will only act promptly upon the bill. Our greatest drawback in our South ern seacoast operations has been our want of wift, light draft and powerful gunboats. With twenty such gunboats at our service at the berebellion to pieces within three months, beginning with Norfolk and winding up with the occupation of New Orleans. As it is, should Congress order now twenty, or even forty, ironclad gunboats, we shall find them useful, even if not ready for service until this rebellion is sun-

The two houses of Congress having made their arrangements for a practical recess during the interval, let us hope that with the new year they will more largely devote their attention to the necessities of the Treasury and the vigor ous prosecution of this war, and less to the agitation of abolition schemes and projects than heretofore. We have this Southern rebellion now in the condition of a city under a siege. It is nearly exhausted, and we have the men and the means, if properly employed, to bring it to a capitulation by the Fourth of July next.

HEAVY ORDNANCE WANTED .- Our readers will observe how often the English papers speak of ships-of-war, designed for the North American station, being equipped with heavy guns now a-days, and report the substitution of Armstrong sixty and one hundred pounders for the oldfashioned twenty-four and thirty-two pound guns. We can learn something here from the enemy. Let our ships-of-war be provided with new, improved, heavy ordnance of the best kind as fast as possible. Let our foundries be set to work to turn out these guns. Extraordi nary crises demand extraordinary exertions They can work nights and Sundays at the Tower in England to prepare arms against us and there is no reason why our foundries should not be pushed to double labor now also.

ORGANIZE THE NAVY:-Whether we are to have a war with England or not, now is the time to build up a navy. Congress and the administration should act together in this matter, and act expeditiously. New ships-of-war and fron-clad batteries should be constructed as soon and in as great numbers as pessible. All of our old vessels-of-war should be taken off the stocks and put in commission. They will be useful for harbor batteries if they cannot sail, and at least some of them can be razeed and converted into steamers. Our shipyards and machine factories should be worked to their ntmost limits now. There is nothing like taking time by the forelock in war matters.

Abolition Philanthropy for the Southern

The sum total of the abolition zeal for the Southern slave amounts to turning a negro into a nigger. Every candid and intelligent man who has ever travelled through the South declares that there is no comparison between the happy lot of the Southern negro and the unfortunate negro of the North. Yet the present war has had its origin in the mad attempt to convert the Southern negroes into paupers. What would be the effect of such a course! It would be to murder one-half of them-to set them affoat as vagabonds and wanderers over the country, especially in time of war, when eo 'ision prevails, and every white man has enough to do to feed himself, without being burthened with beg gars of another race. But this wretched degeneration is what the philosophers of the Tri-buse propose for the sleek, contented, well fed blacks of the South. "If we really mean to put down the rebellien," says Greeley, "we must encourage the negroes to come over to our side." But how does he propose to encourage them? By offering them liberty. He says:—"We can give them the best reason for so doing without cost to the Treasury or obligation for the future; for we are utterly opposed to all schemes for taking care of the neg at the public expense. All we need or should offer them as inducement to come over to our side is liberty." Cheap sacrifice for the poor negro. He is to cost the Treasury nothing, and here is to be "no obligation for the future." He is not to be taken care of at the public excense. What then is the consequence of mancipation? To take them from under the ction of their masters, who are bound by law to feed and clothe them, and to provide for hem in sickness and old age, which is more than white men are compelled to do for their servants at the North. It is to set them adrift to shift for themselves, without the intelligence or the habits necessary for success. It is to let the negroes die by thousands from starvation by the wayside and in the streets, and to make of the balance thieves, robbers and murderers. What is the condition of the Northern negroes at best? We are told they are free. But what

sort of freedom is it? Have they any political privileges, or any social standing? Can they be elected to any office? Can any white man or woman intermarry with them without being disgraced and an outcast from society? Are they not pariahs at the North more than at the South-mocked with the empty name of freedom by the abolitionists, who take care not to mingle their blood with theirs. The negroes are a despised race at the North more than they are at the South. They are only barbers, and bootblacks, and whitewashers. They are for the most part degraded by vice and crime; so that a Southern slave despises them, and calls them, by way of derision, "free niggers." Their numbers diminish at the North. They increase at the South. These two facts speak volumes. Their only security is in servitude, which differs from the bondage of a white free servant only in this, that the term of service is for life instead of for a month or for a quarter of a vear. The advantage of the arrangement is altogether in favor of the negro. He is to be taken care of when he is sick and too old to work; whereas, if he were a white man, he would

he allowed to rot in a cellar or a garret. To destroy this patriarchal institution at the expense of millions of lives and oceans of treasure is the avowed design of the radical abolitionists, of whom the Tribune is the chief organ. The success of their schemes would ruin alike both blacks and whites, while it would render the restoration of the Union hopeless forever. The sooner the government puts them down, by the same means by which the open expression of sympathy with the Southern rebellion was crushed, the better it will be for the cause of the Union, the welfare of the counties of the administration.

The Death of Prince Albert. The decease of the Queen's consort, and the father of her nine children, is a solemn event, not only for her Majesty, but the people of England. The almost universal attachment with which she is regarded by her subjects extends more or ess to all the members of the royal family. Her marriage with Prince Albert was popularly regarded as a national blessing; for the union was one productive of much of that domestic happiness upon which the affections of the nation centre. It was considered a beautiful thing to see exalted rank associated with true womanly worth—to find an exemplary wife and good mother in a Queen, and easures of home preserved under glitter of a crown. The regret that this sovereign idel has become a widow will be deer and heartfelt. A knell will be heard in every English home, and sorrow will be felt such

mourning throughout the land. Prince Albert was respected by all gentleman, an excellent husband and kind father. He was, moreover, esteemed one of the most prominent art, science and agriculture in country. He was a keen sportsman and the sessor of varied accomplishments. Added to a fine exterior, which at the time of his marriage earned for him the reputation of being mest man in England, his intellectual gifts and noble sentiments made him admired by women and esteemed by men. A temporary unpopularity clouded his name during the progress of the Crimean war; but subsequently be entirely recovered it. His discretion prevented him, as the Queen's consort, from at any time publicly interfering in the affairs of government, although it is un-

doubted that his counsels were freely tendered

to the sovereign; and he was one well fitted to

those only who have experienced a great do-

mestic affliction can imagine. There will be

The effect of his death will be to bring the Prince of Wales more prominently forward in public life. As beir apparent to the throne, he will be brought into closer acquaintance with matters of State than during the life of his father, whose place in the confidence of the Crown he will to some extent supply. His youth, however, will, for some time to come, operate against the value of his opinions; but his quick intelligence will rapidly ripen under the favorable auspices of his position, and qualify him in advance for that throne which is now so worthily occupied by his mother. The effect of this sudden bereavement will probably operate seriously for a time upon the Queen's health, already much impaired by the shock of her mother's death, and always requiring a careful attention to bygienic rules.

days in Buckingham Palace, when the public will be admitted to view, after which the funeral will take place with great pomp, the male portion of the royal family, the army, and all the high officers of the crown, the foreign ambassadors, and many of the relatives of the Prince, taking part in the procession, which will proceed by a circuitous route to Westminster Hall, where the burial service will be read and the bedy interred. The burial service will probably be read simultaneously in all the churches in the kingdom, and a general suspension of business take place. The popular, as well as the official mind, will be diverted to a great extent from the consideration of a probable war with the United States, and all hearts will unite in a tribute of sympathy to the widow, of whose virtues, as maid and wife, England has long been justly proud. And, while thus engaged, may the event be a lesson to that government and to that people, and impress upon them the

away, and others take their places. Although the English Ministers bave sacri ficed forever all hold upon the frendly feelings of this country for Great Britain, we may say that none, perhaps, will entertain a warme sympathy for Victoria in this period of her mestic affliction than the people of the United States.

great truth that nations, like individuals, pass

IMPORTANT REPORM IN THE NAVY .- By tele graphic intelligence published in yesterday's HERALD, we learn that the President has signed the bill to Promote the Efficiency of the Navy, The effect of the bill is to relieve the service of old fogies in command of our ships-of-warand give a chance to the young and enterprising to rival the deeds of our naval heroes in our two wars with England.

We trust that henceforth it will be very differ. ent with the United States navy from what it was with the British navy in the Crimean war. Admiral Napier, at a public dinner in London, boasted that in three weeks he would be in Heaven or Hell or Cronstadt. Upon entering the waters of the Baltic he issued an order to the seamen to sharpen their cutlasses. But, on attempting to force his way through the batteries defending the Russian stronghold, this fire-eater was so overwhelming ly repulsed at the first attempt that he did not venture again. He found his fleet was not half manned. Let it not be so with the American navy. Congress has made liberal provision for the increase of the navy, and for a powerful reinforcement of its strength by a large number of iron-clad vessels-of-war. Let them be manned with the right kind of officers and men. and there can be no doubt about the result of a naval conflict with any European Power.

Had we such a navy as we ought to have had when England sent her demands to us, we could have afforded to resist them, notwithstanding the condition of our country. Let both be put in order, and then, if she should again provoke us to war, she will find a foe as worthy of her steel as she did in the seven years war of the Revolution, or the three years war in which our militia taught her veteran regulars, with their laurels fresh from Spain, a lesson at New Orleans which they have never forgotten.

THE BLOCKADE AND THE COTTON CROP.-Eng. lish naval officers now pronounce our blockade efficient. What with our ships-of-war, our stone fleets, our gunboats, and our possession of Hatteras, Hilton Head, Tybee Island and Ship Island, we should think it ought to be by this time. Now, then, measures ought to be taken to secure the cotton crop. Underneath her former pretext of an inefficient blockade, underneath her present pretext of a legal technicality, the real reason of England's trouble with this country is her mania for cotton. Only by this cry for cotton can England secure the sympathy of her own working classes in her bluster towards this country. Let twenty sand more troops be sent to Port Royal; let the remainder of the Ship Island expedition be hurried off. With these forces, push into the interior of the South, and seize the cotton crop before it is too late. The field is ours if we will but occupy it. Every day's delay makes cotton more valuable to England, and the chances of our seizing it more precarious. With cotton and corn we command the world.

THE APPAIR OF THE TRENT AT WASHINGTON. We have as yet no information from Washington of the submission to our government of the ex-pected ultimatum of England on the Trent affair. Lord Lyons, whatever may be the drift of his instructions, has evidently no designs of a precipitate demand and an immediate answer peace or war. Doubtless he is deliberately employed in working up an argument to support his demands, and contemplates a liberal margin of time to Mr. Seward for a reply. If so, it is quite possible that, under the quieting assurance of peace, all public excitement on the Trent affair, on both sides of the Atlantic, will have died out while yet Lord Lyons and Mr. Seward are engaged in an exhausting discussion of the subject. At all events, having exhausted the case as presented by our English contempo raries, we are awaiting some movement of the waters at Washington.

SIGNALIZE AMERICAN VESSELS OF A PROBABLE WAR.—We notice in our European news that Lord Derby, in his conference with Lord Palmerston, advised that all outgoing English vessels should be instructed to signalize all English ships they meet that "a war with America is probable." The idea is an excellent one, and we hope that it will be immediately adopted by our own government. Let all American vessels, national or merchant, be instructed to inform every American ship met on the high seas that a war with England is probable, and that they should prepare for it-The information will be of invaluable import ance in the event of war actually being de clared, and, indeed, in any event.

NEW PIECE AT BARNUE'S MUSEUM .- A new fairy spec tacular drama, in four acts, entitled "Ondina, or the Spirit of the Waters," was produced for the first time in this city at Barnum's Museum on last Monday evening before a very crowded audience, and proved a decided success. The play, we suppose, is founded on one of those beautiful legends of the Rhine which embody the most delightful fictions, and which have been worked up into such charming stories by the genius of German literature. Abounding in splendid scenery, magic trans-formations and comic situations, it is just the kind of a play to draw well during the holidays, and will doubtless have a good run at the Museum. The mechanical arrangements and the scenery are really of a superior quality, especially the last tableau, called the quality, especially the last tableau, called the "Bower of Beauty" in the enchanted forest, by which the entire stage is taken up, and forty young ladies, classically grouped, personate the fairy court of the Queen Ondina. The principal roles are well sustained by Mrs. J. J. Prior, Miss C. Alford, Mr. Hadaway and Mr. J. E. Nagle.

NEW YORK HARMONIC SOCIETY.-The "Messiah" will be The body of the Prince, before interment given this evening at Irving Hall by this society, with several of our leading artists in the solo parts, and full will in all probability lie in state for several choral and orchestral effects. THE SKATING SEASON.

To Skating To-day in Central Park-The Williamsburg Skating Associate Skating Outside of New York, &c. the purpose of enjoying a "good skate" will be somewhat disappointed at finding that the ice on Central Park will be unfit for use to-day, and unless a very severe, still frost sets in te-night there will not be much chance for to-morrow either.

THE CENTRAL PARK. skating on the pond to-day, when there has been every sign of it during the past few days. The only answer we can give is "the weather." That it has been cold enough to make ice there can be no denying; but it has not been still enough. The recent beavy rains and high winds have softened the thin coating of ice on the pond too much to make it safe to say that skating ought to be allowed to-day unless a very severe frest should have taken place last night. The disappointment will be rela-by many others besides the skaters. The owners of booths have laid in sundry stocks of provisions, &c., the sale of which is now doubtful. Waiton had taken advantage of his large wholesale establishment in Warres street to supply his tent with every kind of skate; and as there is no skating, of course his labor of love is loss. The chairs will have no runners to propel them, and the los that should present a festive acone will be a desolate waste. Beekman's pond may have a frozen surface, and Harlem flats might be visited; but, on the whole, the chances of skating are very slim indeed.

SEATING IN WILLIAMSBURG.
The same thing that affects the Central Park skating burg; but, should the weather permit, the season will be commenced in this semi-rural discrete to-day.

commenced in this semi-rural discrete today.

The Union Skating Association, composed of the respectable residents of Williamsburg, have enclosed a piece of ground seven acres in extent, which has been funced in, banked up at the sides, and flooded with water from the reservoir at an expense of five cents per thousand gallons, until a skating surface six hundred fuet ough by three hundred and thirty feet in breadth has been presented. This space is bounded by Marcy and Harrison avenues, and Rutledge street, a short distance east of Lee avenue church, and can be reached by either the Green oint or Flushing avenue ours from Brooklyn, or the South Seventh street cars from the Williamsburg ferry house of the Peck Slip ferry. The pond has been arranged so that comfort during the sport shall be awarded to all. An open rail fence passes around the pend, some distance from the bank, so as to allows width of twenty-five feet of ice on each of the four sides for the use of chairs on runners, thus giving this branch of the amusement a space or drive of one thousand cuth hundred and sixty feet by twenty five; and as the end joins the beginning there is really no end to the length of distance the chairs may be propelled. As the skating surface is on the within side of this rail, no obstruction is offered to the foot passengers by the carriages. Further than this, the learner to skate can make use of the rai

fence as a support in his task.

For the comfort of visiters a house, one hundred feet ong, and divided into six apartments, has been crected. One apartment is for a refreshment saloon, a second for the hire of skates, the remainder being set apart as ladies and gentlemen's sitting and dressing rooms. The house has been fitted up with glass windows looking on the look and a comfortable heating apparatus has been so arrang as to make the whole of an agreeable temperature. The pond will be brilliantly illuminated on dark rights, and a and of music will play every day from three to ten P. M. In consideration of the ladies, no intoxicating liquors will be sold on the ice, and the whole will be under a special police regulation for the preservation of good

On each alternate post of the fence a Christmas tree or a flag will be placed, and on the lofty flagstaff will be erected the signal when skating is ance and pleasant. To erected the signal when skating is and and pleasant. The keep the pond select, the number of subscribers is limited to four hundred, and the price of the tickets—to admit the subscriber's family—is five dollars each.

The fitting up of the pond has kept a number of men is employment for some time, and thus, while giving amusement to the well-to-do citizen, has contributed to the support of many a worthy man.

SKATING "BINK" IN MONTREAL. SKATINO "RINK" IN MONTHEAL.
An enterprising gentleman of Montreal is about to erect
a substantial brick building, with galleries, dressing
rooms, lighted at hight, to be used for skating from the
time the frost sets in to spring, and then used in summer
for gynnasium, riding school, ball room, plonic exhibitions, and all sorts of amusements. The building will be
200 feet long by 60 feet wide, 14 feet on the sides and 24
feet high in the centre, with a moveable floor, lighted by
skylights.

SKATING PARK IN CHICAGO.

The managers of the Chicago Central Park very judiciously took advantage of the recent "warm spell" of weather and flooded the Park. The gradual change in the temperature which has ensued has coated the water with a beautiful, amount coat of ice, which, if the weather amptinues favorable, will be well tested on Christmas

SKATING IN BOSTON.

From the Boston papers we learn that the sport is to be indulged in by the residents of the modern Athens with as much vigor as heretofore, nowithstanding the effects of the war and other causes. The usual skating ground nd if the my way pleasant much fun is expected by the

any way pleasant much fun is expected by the skaters.

THE SKATING PARE OF DETROIS.

[From the Detrois Free Press, Poc. 22.]

We are at last enabled to say that the skating park is leng "coming" is here at last. The park is covered with a fine body of ice, as smooth as glass, \$Md skaters who have been waiting so patiently for the cold snap will now have an opportunity to induge in this healthy and inspiriting exercise. This intelligence, we are sure, will be halled with pleasure by hundreds of our population, including many of the gentler sex, and the park will soom present the animated spectacle so often wilnessed last winter, the remembrance of which is "pleasant to the soul." Unless otherwise announced on Monday, the park will be formally opened for the season to-morrow morning, and in future the pennant on the Russell House will be the signal for skaters to assemble. Season or single tickets may be had from the directors.

Brooklyn Academy of Music

On Monday night, under the recent resolution of the Board of Directors, the Jarrett-Davenport combination opened this house for a series of dramatic performances. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the thea-tre was crowded in every part, the upper gallery present-ing for the first time since the building has been used a ing for the first time since the building has been used a well filled aspect. In despite of the apprehensions of the aristocratic pretenders who opposed the hiring of the house for theatrical performances, nothing could be more orderly or decorous than the conduct of the audience. It was composed for the most part of the same class of citizens who patronise the Philharmonic concerts, whilst the addition of others, who could not afford to pay the parquette and balcony prices, made no difference general demeanor of the people assembled, which was just as quiet and well behaved as that of "our set" on opera nights.

The play was "Hamlet," with the following fine
cast:—Hamlet, Mr. E. L. Davenport; the Ghost,
Mr. J. W. Wallack; Polonius, Mr. Mark Smith;

Mr. J. W. Wallack; Polonius, Mr. Mark Smith; Grave Digger, Mr. Thomas Placide; Laertes, Mr. J. H. Allen; Gertrude, Queen of Denmark, Mrs. J. W. Wallack; Ophelis, Mrs. Julis Bennett Barrow On Mr. Davenport's impersonation of Hamlet it is no necessary for us to enlarge. It is so familiar to our public that criticism upon it would be superfluous. Suffice it to say that there is no actor on the English or American stage who gives a more finished or graceful interpretation to the character. The Ophelis of Mrs. Julia Bennett Barrow is also very good, showing careful reading and a correct appreciation of the niceties of the part. The other characters were equally well sustained in their way, and altogether the representation of the piece was enthusiastically applauded throughout, and was called before the courtain at the conclusion of the piece.

Last night the best comedy in the English language, Sharidan's "School for Scandal," was the fitting sequel to the tragedy of the previous evening. The racy, presents we of this colebrated nia way as amirably debefore the curtain at the conclusion of the piece.

Last night the best comedy in the English language, Sheridan's "School for Scandal," was the fitting sequed to the tragedy of the previous evening. The racy, piquant with of this celebrated play was admirably developed by the pewerful cast who performed the several parts. It is one of those pieces which require not a single star, or two or three good actors, to make it tell. It demands a number of first class performens to do it justice. It is also a drama of high life, and requires actors and actresses of refined manners to hit off the delicate points. The dramatic persons were:—Joseph Surface, Mr. J. W. Wallack, Jr.; Charles Surface, Mr. E. L. Davenport; Sir Feter Teasle, Mr. Mark Smith, Sir Oliver Surface, Mr. J. Walles, Andrews; Crabires, Mr. T. Placide; Sir Benginin Backbite, Mr. J. H. Allen; Carcless, Mr. Langdon; Moses, Mr. J. O. Setton; Lady Teasle, Mrs. Julia Bennett Barrow: Mrs. Candour, Mrs. Brougham; Lady Sneerwell, Miss Irving: Marie, Miss Gimber.

The performance kept the house in a continual roar. Where all acquitted themselves so well it is almost inviduous to make distinctions; but justice requires that we should particularise the splendid acting of Mrs. Julia Bennett Barrow as Lady Teasle, Mrs. Brougham as Mrs. Candour, Mr. F. L. Davenport as Charles Surface and Mr. J. W. Wallack, Jr., as Joseph Surface. The character of Sir Peter Teasle was well rendered by Mr. Smith,

and acting of Mrs. July and acting of Mrs. July andour, Mr. E. L. Davenport a Charles Surface and Mr W. Wallack, Jr., as Joseph Surface. The character of Peter Teazle was well rendered by Mr. Smith, Mr. Andrews was a very good Sir Oliven, role of Lady Teazle, by Julia Bennett Barrow, ted unbounded applause. It was a charming piece of g; but scarcely less deserving of admiration was the success.

In the property of the last control of the piece was a success.

the result of the last two nights' performs that they h